

Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2015
Butterick Building, Park Street, Sterling

Members Present: Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson, Bob Protano, Marion Larson, Erin Rehrig

Other attendees: Marie and Scott Pendleton

Meeting Began at 7:11PM

Acceptance of Minutes: Jim Wilkinson made a motion to accept July minutes, Peder Pedersen seconded. Unanimous vote for approval.
M. Larson will take minutes for this meeting.

MOA with DCR Update: P. Pedersen reported that the DRC legal department reviewed input from Sterling's Town Council. and that there still were a few issues to be dealt with. Also, the DCR template for MOAs has been modified slightly. The most recent version of the MOA is now back in the hands of the Sterling Town Administrator Mike Szlosek.

Farmers Market -- J. Wilkinson said there was interest in maps, newcomers to the area were making inquiries--about 10-12 of the new trail maps were handed out. Given the commitment required, it was decided to alternate some weeks. A schedule of OSIC members staffing the table was worked out. M. Larson and R. Protano for Aug 21, M. Larson and E. Rehrig on September 4, J. Wilkinson and P. Pedersen on September 18.

Receipts -- M. Larson provided receipts to J. Wilkinson for the purchase of the chairs. Warrant to be filled out and signed. P. Pedersen also brought receipts.

Trail Brochures -- P. Pedersen had incorporated fauna info from M. Larson for the Heywood Reservoir Trail and the Lynde Basins Trail brochures and is working on text for the Gaylord Trail at Hardscrabble Road. He still needs some flora and fauna information for Stillwater Basin Trails to complete those brochures.

No Kiosk Update at this time.

8:00 PM -- Scheduled meeting with Pendletons

Scott and Marie Pendleton as well as Maryanne MacLeod (both of Swett Hill Road) came before OSIC to air concerns about the Mudgett orchard parcel. Concerns expressed by both parties.

M. MacLeod went over some history of the Mudgett orchard. When she was interested in reinvigorating the orchard, she was told no pesticides could be used. In 2009 the Conservation Commission was given control of the parcel by a vote of Town Meeting and that the property fell under Article 97. She questioned whether some of the proposed work to be done on the property was legal under Article 97. She was concerned this was a "dog park in disguise" and that there are 2 certified vernal pools on the property that would be harmed plus a potential vernal pool was in the area.

The Pendletons again expressed concern about traffic and lack of privacy. They related that the Conservation Commission has no plan in place yet there is flagging and discussions with contractors. How can there be bidding when there is no plan? They feel that as abutters they should have notice of meetings. The Pendletons mentioned the Con Comm was planning a survey of the boundaries. At the last Con Comm meeting Pendletons had attended they were told there was going to be a site meeting on a Thursday. Pendletons related they waited but saw no one at the appointed time until B. Roberti arrived. Scott Pendleton then saw that some of the group had come on to the property through another parcel. Pendletons want a hold on any cutting until there is a plan and will be requesting this at a Board of Selectman's (BOS) meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2015.

OSIC members reminded all parties that these are all concerns to be aired with Con Commission, that OSIC does not have any authority in the matter. M. MacLeod stated she would like OSIC to consider withdrawing support for the Mudgett Project. It was pointed out that OSIC sent a letter of support for the grant application and that no decisions would be made at tonight's meeting.

Both parties thanked OSIC for taking the time to listen to them.

BOS August 26 Meeting Invite to OSIC-- M. Larson and R. Protano agreed to attend the BOS meeting in person, rather than sending in a written statement. Having all parties in the same location seemed to make the most sense. OSIC may need to be prepared to answer any questions the BOS has regarding its interest in the project. There may be a need to correct error in BOS minutes so that it's clear OSIC did not write or receive the trails grant. Also a chronology of who on OSIC has had interactions with Pendletons or Con Comm may be useful. M. Larson will find out where on the agenda this topic will be discussed and notify R. Protano.

Next Work Day -- To be decided at a later meeting.

Flyer -- J. Wilkinson had not received any suggestions. Was asked to re-send the text to the group. Images would also be useful for this document--if any members have suitable images, send along to J. Wilkinson.

Next Meeting Date set for Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 7 PM at the Butterick Building.

Meeting Adjourned 8:45PM.

Submitted by Marion Larson, OSIC member.